

Remarks

Since this application is a §371, the Patent Office has automatically titled this application "Non-oriented magnetic steel sheet and method for production thereof." Applicants respectfully request that the title be amended to --Non-oriented electrical steel sheet and method for manufacturing the same-- which is the title on the English translation of the specification.

The Applicants acknowledge the restriction requirement dividing the claims into five groups as indicated on pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action. The Applicants provide the following comments below.

Claims 1 and 6-15 have been cancelled. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction is now moot with respect to Groups IV and V. The restriction is now partially moot with respect to Group I.

Claim 5 has been amended to account for the cancellation of Claim 1. Thus, Claim 5 now depends from Claims 2-4.

Claims 2, 3 and 4 have been amended to remove "(including 0%)." That language is redundant in accordance with accepted U.S. practice.

Claim 4 has further been amended to remove the "wherein" paragraph including Formula 1. However, new language has been added to Claim 4 to recite that the steel sheet forms Cu precipitates in crystal grain interior having a volume ratio of 0.2% to 2% and an average particle size of 1 to 20 nm by aging treatment at 500°C for 10 hours. Support for the newly added language may be found throughout the Applicants' original Application such as on page 36 at lines 10-15 and page 50 at lines 11-16, for example.

Additional support may be found in original Claim 3 with respect to the volume ratio of Cu precipitates and the average particle size of the Cu precipitates. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 has the common feature of Claim 3 with respect to the Cu precipitation in volume ratio and average particle size.

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The Applicants elect Group II (including Claims 2 and 5) with traverse with respect to Group III. In that regard, Group III has the acknowledged feature of the volume ratio and the average particle size of the Cu precipitates as does Claim 4. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 should be removed from Group I and placed into Group II.

Similarly, Claim 3 has the same Cu precipitate commonalities and should, accordingly, be examined together with Claim 4. Hence, the Applicants respectfully request that all of Claims 2-5 be examined in this single Application. In that regard, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no particular burden on the Patent Office in examining such a small number of related claims.

The Applicants accordingly respectfully request a substantive examination on the merits of Claims 2-5, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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